Friday, June 04, 2004

Preparing for Mobility

If you have received this questionnaire, that means CRAB believes you are your county's RoadLog Point of Contact. If this in incorrect, please forward this to the appropriate person in your organization that is the RoadLog Manager and have that person forward their contact information to CRAB. Thank you.

Now, as many of you know, over the past 3 or 4 months we have actively been beta testing Mobility. We are happy to report that we have completed that process with enthusiastic endorsements from the beta test counties and we are now beginning the process of deploying version 1 of Mobility. However, this is a process and we need your help in how we proceed from here.

Our beta test counties have all indicated that, based on their experiences testing Mobility, they are ready to deploy. It was their considered opinion that Mobility is indeed ready for prime time and they are ready to move forward and leave CRIS behind. The CRAB Mobility Team is in full accordance with their decision and are ready to officially get them up and running. We are working actively toward that goal for all six beta counties.

To get an overview of Mobility, you can go to the Mobility website at: http://www.crab.wa.gov/Mobility and read about the beta test and search the Mobility knowledge base for known Mobility issues. You can also click on the Mobility webhelp site and take a tour of Mobility.

That being said, there are a number of steps involved in the deployment process. The beta counties are a little ahead of the curve, because as a part of the beta process, all their CRIS data was converted into the Mobility data framework. As a result, they will be the first counties to go to full Mobility deployment. However, there is still one crucial step left before they can get completely over to Mobility; CRAB must approve the 2003 Roadlogs of each and then, the Mobility Team must do a final conversion of their CRIS data. Once that is accomplished, they are then ready to do an official deployment.

Once we get the six beta counties converted and up and running on Mobility we will be ready to begin the process of deploying Mobility to the remaining 33 counties.

Please consider the following points about deployment options and then answer the 6 questions at the end of the survey and send it on to us, here at CRAB:

1. Mobility has specific requirements for both running the client application and for running the SQL database server:
    a. What Windows operating system will you be running Mobility on? To see the minimum system requirements for Mobility go to the webhelp at: http://www.crab.wa.gov/mobility/help/webhelp.htm and see if your systems meet those requirements under: Getting Started→System Requirements and also under Deploying Mobility:
    b. Mobility is intended to run on only Windows 2000 or higher.
    c. Before we can deploy Mobility you must meet the minimum standards to run Mobility the application and/or host the SQL database.
2. What deployment model are you going to use? For details on the ways that you can deploy Mobility, go to the Mobility WebHelp site and read the "Deploying Mobility" section of the HTML help at: http://www.crab.wa.gov/mobility/help/webhelp.htm, under Getting Started→Deploying Mobility.
3. Once you determined how you want to deploy Mobility, the next question for you to answer is WHEN are you going to be ready to do so?
4. Once you know WHEN, then you are ready to start the process of getting your CRIS data converted to the Mobility data framework.

a. Before doing any of the below, Kathy O'Shea at: kathyo@crab.wa.gov, will be contacting you with a second survey so she knows what inventories you DON'T maintain in CRIS (i.e. Signs, Culverts, Guardrails, Storm Systems...whatever), so she doesn't bother to convert those tables.

b. Zip up your entire CRIS/AREV program and email it to Steve Hillesland at: steve@crab.wa.gov. When zipping up your CRIS files, make sure to remove any extra .zip files from the CRIS directory that you have sent in the past to help minimize file size.

c. Kathy will then do your first data conversion into the Mobility data framework and will create an "Exception Report" which will detail bits and pieces of data in CRIS that don't fit into the Mobility Data Model. Kathy will be sending detailed information about your conversion as it gets underway.

d. Once you receive your exception report, you will need to make any changes in CRIS and then go back to section (b) above, and resubmit your entire CRIS data set to Steve.

e. Kathy then converts your CRIS data again and creates another exception report. The above is repeated until your CRIS data can be neatly and cleanly brought into Mobility.

5. Once your data is successfully converted, we run a check on both your CRIS data and the new Mobility data to make sure that all of your mileages for each FFC and surface type are exactly the same. If there are ANY anomalies, we will work with you to solve them.

6. Once a clean conversion is declared, we want you to come to a fundamental Mobility Training class before we actually deploy Mobility to you. We will be posting the training schedule on the CRAB web site in the near future. However, be assured that we will have ongoing training sessions into the foreseeable future.

CRAB does not have the resources to do all the counties at once. So, as a part of the deployment schedule, we will be prioritizing counties in blocks of 3 or 4 to start their conversions. As we get more experience at assessing how long individual conversions will take, we will make adjustments to that schedule. Some of this will be dependent on how ready an individual county is to convert, and how quickly their conversion process proceeds and which deployment model is going to be used.

So, as I asked above, the questions you need to answer and let us know are:

1. Does your operating system meet the minimum requirement?
2. What deployment model are you going to use?
3. When will you be ready to deploy?
4. Version of Windows OS?
5. Who is the official RoadLog/Mobility Point of Contact for your county?
6. Comments/Questions?

Send your answers to the above to me, or if you have any other questions, please let me know:

Daniel Dickson
Special Projects Coordinator
CRAB
dan@crab.wa.gov